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PATIENT SUPPORTCross-Reference to Related Application

This application is a divisional of U.S. Utility Application Serial No. 09/750,859 filed December 29, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,611,979, that claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/173,428, filed December 29, 1999, titled Hospital Bed, and U.S. Utility Application Serial No. 09/120,125, titled Hospital Bed Having a Retractable Foot Section, filed July 22, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,611,979, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application 60/059,772, filed September 23, 1997. The disclosures of all four applications are expressly incorporated by reference herein. The disclosures of PCT Application PCT/US98/20002, titled Hospital Bed Having a Retracting Foot Section, filed September 23, 1998, to Allen et al.; U.S. Utility Patent Application Serial No. 09/750,741, titled Hospital Bed, filed December 29, 2000, to Osborne et al.; U.S. Utility Patent Application Serial No. 09/751,031, titled Foot Controls for a Bed, filed December 29, 2000, to Osborne et al.; and PCT Application Serial No. PCT/US00/35656, titled Hospital Bed, filed December 29, 2000, to Hill-Rom Services, Inc. and naming inventors Osborne et al. are expressly incorporated by reference herein.

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Background and Summary of the Invention

The present invention relates to a hospital bed. More particularly, the present invention relates to a hospital bed having a mattress having a retractable foot section.

Hospital bed and other patient supports are known. Typically, such patient supports are used to provide a support surface for patients or other individuals for treatment, recuperation, or rest. Many such patient supports include a frame, a deck supported by the frame, and a mattress having head, seat, and foot portions.

According to the present invention, a patient support is provided that includes a frame, a deck supported by the frame, and a mattress supported by the deck. The mattress includes a retractable foot portion configured to have an adjustable length. The retractable foot portion includes a foam portion and a heel-pressure relief portion.